Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating withdrawal or abstinence syndrome in a drug dependent or opioid tolerant patient in need of such treatment, which method comprises transdermal administration by a buprenorphine-containing transdermal patch of an amount of buprenorphine effective to reduce withdrawal symptoms in the patient; and wherein the patient is a pregnant woman addicted to an opiate and the method comprises:

(a) administering to the patient a first buprenorphine-containing transdermal patch for a first dosing period that is no longer than about 5 days;

(b) administering to said patient a second buprenorphine-containing transdermal patch for a second dosing period that is no longer than about 5 days, wherein the second transdermal patch comprises the same dosage or a greater dosage of buprenorphine than the first transdermal patch; and

(c) administering to the patient a third buprenorphine-containing transdermal patch for a third dosing period for at least 2 days, wherein the third transdermal patch comprises a greater dosage of buprenorphine than the second transdermal patch.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the dosing regimen results in a plasma buprenorphine profile wherein the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration after administration of the third transdermal patch ~~dosage form~~ is about 800 pg/ml.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the first, second, and third transdermal patches ~~dosage forms~~ contain the amounts of buprenorphine as set forth in one row of the following table:

First (mg)	Second (mg)	Third (mg)
5	5	10
5	10	10

5	10	20
10	10	20
10	20	20

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1, further comprising extended subsequent dosing periods with subsequent buprenorphine-containing transdermal patches ~~dosage forms~~ for a given time period as needed by the patient to achieve desired relief from withdrawal or abstinence from drug dependence or tolerance.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the subsequent transdermal patches ~~dosage forms~~ comprise 10 mg of buprenorphine, 20 mg of buprenorphine, 30 mg of buprenorphine, or 40 mg of buprenorphine.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the subsequent transdermal patches ~~dosage forms~~ are replaced every 7 days.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising subsequent transdermal patches ~~dosage forms~~ to taper down the dosage once symptoms of withdrawal dissipates.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the dosing regimen results in a plasma buprenorphine profile wherein the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration after administration of the subsequent transdermal patch ~~dosage form~~ is about 800 pg/ml.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the subsequent transdermal patches ~~dosage forms~~ are replaced every 7 days.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising subsequent transdermal patches ~~dosage forms~~ to taper down the dosage once symptoms of withdrawal dissipate.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the dosing regimen results in a plasma buprenorphine profile wherein the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration after administration of the subsequent transdermal patch ~~dosage form~~ is about 800 pg/ml.

15. (Canceled)